



Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

Received May 23, 1903

To: 02-277

60 Ex parte Notices

To: Chairman/Commission



TO: FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

FROM: Frank Leli  
354 Benzinger St.  
Buffalo, NY 14206-1103

SUBJECT: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

DATE: May 21, 2003 12:36 PM

02-277

RECEIVED  
MAY 23 2003  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy:

I urge you to tell the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) not to weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of America's newspapers and radio and TV stations. As you know, the FCC is reviewing rules currently for media ownership and is likely to allow big corporations to dominate ownership of media in a particular city or town. If that happens, one company may be allowed to own the local newspaper, several TV and radio stations and the cable TV system in the same community. There would be fewer owners of networks, stations and newspapers nationwide. Media ownership would be concentrated among fewer companies and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. Plus, it likely would result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs likely would be passed onto consumers. The FCC is expected to vote on whether to change the rules on June 2. The public comments submitted to the FCC by individuals have been opposed to media consolidation overwhelmingly. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition. Please tell the FCC to reinstate its traditional media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy. Furthermore both Democrats, Republicans, and other political parties have a right to have their ideas, principles, and platform presented before the American public and the world. We, as Americans, do not want and promote a society that is closed and devoid of ideas. A media that is totally controlled by a select group, historically, has never been the American way. This principle (Freedom of the Press) must continue (AD INFINITUM) in the future in order that the blessings of our great democracy will survive. Thank you.

Sincerely,

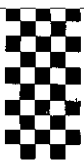
Frank Leli

cc:

Representative Jack Quinn

Senator Hillary Clinton

Senator Charles Schumer



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

716-631-3202

**Michael Kushner**

1420 1/2 S. Beverly Dr. , Los Angeles, CA 90035

May 21, 2003 02:02 PM

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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Please tell the FCC to reinstate its traditional media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Kushner

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Representative Henry Waxman

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 21, 2003 02:02 PM  
716-631-3202

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

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MAY 23 2003

Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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Office of Secretary

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Yours truly,

Michael Kushner

1420 1/2 S. Beverly Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Representative Henry Waxman





cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Representative Henry Waxman

May 21, 2003 02:07 PM

**R. A. Berry**

---

3852 Millersport Hwy. , ♦ Getzville, NY 14068

FCC Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2003

Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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R. A. Berry

cc:

Representative Thomas Reynolds

Senator Hillary Clinton

Senator Charles Schumer

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445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

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Senator Hillary Clinton  
Senator Charles Schumer



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**R. A. Berry**

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May 21, 2003 02:07 PM

FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

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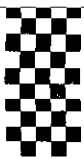
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Representative Thomas Reynolds

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Michael Kushner



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Senator Barbara Boxer

Representative Henry Waxman



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

716-631-3202

TO: FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

FROM: Rev. Richard Hemann  
114 Burgundy Circle  
Buffalo, NY 14224

SUBJECT: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

DATE: May 21, 2003 10:53 PM

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin:

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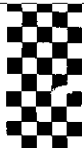
Rev. Richard Hemann

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Senator Hillary Clinton

Senator Charles Schumer



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May 21, 2003 02:07 PM

**R. A. Berry**

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3852 Millersport Hwy. , ♦ Getzville, NY 14068

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW  
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Communications Division

Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein:

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cc:

**Representative Thomas Reynolds**

**Senator Hillary Clinton**

**Senator Charles Schumer**

To strengthen  
and promote  
cities as centers  
of opportunity,  
leadership, and  
governance.



**National League of  
Cities**

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-1783

202-626-3000

Fax: 202-626-3043

Internet: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)

**2003 Officers**

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

MAY 23 2003  
RECEIVED

May 21, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of 135,000 municipal elected officials who serve as the leaders of the nation's cities and towns, I am writing to express concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) pending review of the rules governing media ownership and to request an extension of the public comment period.

As you are aware, the set of rules that will emerge from this proceeding will substantially affect not only the degree of competition in the broadcast marketplace but also the quality of political discourse at all levels of governments. If the FCC plans to specify a new national broadcast ownership cap level that you believe satisfies the objectives of localism, diversity, and competition, we strongly urge you to put forth the new rule and the rationale behind it and allow for public comment by all stakeholders. Moreover, if the FCC plans to issue a new set of rules governing the media marketplace in local communities, we also encourage you to permit further public comment on the new rules.

Unfortunately, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the present proceeding did not allow adequate input from this public. Instead, it simply asked a series of questions regarding the current rules and whether certain societal values that the rules are designed to protect could otherwise be protected through less restrictive means. While there is certainly value in these general questions, they do not permit the public the opportunity to understand precisely what the FCC is contemplating or to respond accordingly. As our attached resolution indicates, NLC is concerned that the pending rules be both legitimate in the eyes of the public and able to withstand judicial review.

Given the importance of this proceeding, we urge the FCC to provide the public an opportunity to comment on a specific set of proposed changes to its present rules before it promulgates a final set of rules. A final rule, which significantly alters media ownership limits, could have serious ramifications for robust public debate and the marketplace of ideas. The mass media provide Americans the information and news they need to participate fully in our democratic society. If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it

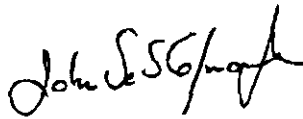
The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
May 21, 2003  
Page Two

dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would not only reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community, but could also raise costs for businesses that use local media for advertising.

NLC believes that the current media ownership proceeding is among the most important the Commission has ever undertaken, and the American public and Congress deserve an opportunity to review and comment on your changes before they go into effect. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to revisit the rulemaking process in order to make it as open and inclusive as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Juan Otero, Principal Legislative Counsel at (202) 626-3020.

Very truly yours,



John DeStefano, Jr.  
President  
Mayor, New Haven, Connecticut

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable W. J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies

**The Honorable John McCain, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

**The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

**The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications**

**The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission**

**The Honorable Kevin Martin, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission**

**The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission**

**The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission**



## **NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES RESOLUTION REGARDING MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND CONSOLIDATION**

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities (NLC) supports free market principles of ownership;

**WHEREAS**, NLC acknowledges that media consolidation has allowed for the continuance of endangered media entities faced with bankruptcy in certain communities;

**WHEREAS**, the public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints and media diversity;

**WHEREAS**, NLC believes a competitive framework is critical for the independence and quality of local media markets and programming and is critical for providing the public with many viewpoints, not just one or two viewpoints;

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission is currently reviewing media ownership regulations which protect diversity and local accountability in our media and this review will most likely have an impact in every city in the US, especially if the study results in even fewer owners of TV and radio stations, newspapers, and cable systems;

**WHEREAS**, NLC believes that the diversity of voices and views presented by the media, and consumer choice could be affected by what the Federal Communications Commission ultimately decides;

**WHEREAS**, a consolidated market with heavy concentration of one specific type of provider might come at the expense of competitive advertising markets that would limit the media advertising options of, and could include sharp price increases to small or local businesses;

**WHEREAS**, a consolidated market with heavy concentration of one specific type of provider might come at the expense of important programs such as public, educational and government (PEG) channels;

**WHEREAS**, a consolidated market with heavy concentration of one specific type of provider might come at the expense of competitive advertising markets that would limit the media advertising options of small or local businesses;

**WHEREAS**, NLC believes that media outlets that have franchise rights must be regulated by a public or government entity because of the nature of the resource that the media company is being granted sole access to such as bandwidth on the EM frequency spectrum;

**WHEREAS**, NLC believes that government regulation is required to preserve the access of smaller providers of media in outlets where there is no market pressure to provide for accurate and independent broadcasting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission has not provided the public a sufficient opportunity to participate in this review process;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, NLC urges the Federal Communications Commission to seek the greatest amount of informed input, and the broadest public input possible during its review.